

**BQC-93-009**

Date: February 29, 1993 BQC-93-009

To: Nursing Homes NH 6  
Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled FDD 3  
Hospitals HOSP 4  
Home Health Agencies HHA 3  
Hospice Agencies HSPCE 2

From: Larry Tainter, Director  
Bureau of Quality Compliance

Subject: Single-Use Feeding Syringes

Attached for your information is a federal program letter that provides information about single-use disposable feeding syringes.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact the Bureau of Quality Compliance Dietary Services Consultants, Billie March, at (608) 266-7188 or Jean Kollasch, at (608) 267-0466.

LT/SW/jh 7916.nm

Attachment

cc: -BQC Staff  
-Office of Legal Counsel  
-Ann Haney, DOH Admin.  
-Kevin Piper, BHCF Dir.  
-HCFA, Region V  
-Illinois State Agency  
-Ohio State Agency  
-Michigan State Agency  
-Indiana State Agency  
-Minnesota State Agency  
-WI Coalition for Advocacy  
-Serv. Employees Intern. Union  
-WI Counties Assn.  
-WI Medical Recds Assn. Cons Comm.  
-WI Assoc. of Hmes & Servs/Aging

-WI Assn. of Hospital SW and Discharge Planners  
-Comm. On Aging, Ext. Care Fac./HH (SMS)  
-WI Assn. of Nursing Homes  
-WI Assn. of Medical Directors  
-Admin., Division of Care and Treatment Facilities  
-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers  
-Non-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers  
-Director, Bureau of Aging DCS  
-WI Hospital Association  
-WI Homecare Organization  
-Bur. of Design, Prof., DRL  
-Bd. On Aging & Long Term Care

Department of Health & Human Services  
Health Care Financing Administration  
Region V  
105 West Adams Street  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6201

February 1993

Refer to: CR29

**Division of Health Standards and Quality Regional Program Letter No. 93-07**

**Subject: Clarification Regarding Single-Use Disposable Feeding Syringes**

We received clarification from Central Office regarding single-use disposable feeding syringes. The use of feeding syringes is appropriate only if the resident has had a comprehensive assessment which clearly indicates the cause for use of a feeding syringe and a plan of care that includes measurable goals and appropriate interventions to address the issue. Using a feeding syringe should be a last resort and staff should be properly trained in their use and be able to accurately demonstrate proper feeding techniques.

Single-use disposable feeding syringes found to be used more than their intended one-time use is inappropriate and could be cited under dietary "sanitation". We are aware there are reusable feeding syringes on the market. In order to comply with Federal regulations, facility staff must follow the manufactures guidelines for proper sanitization of the syringes.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Gwendolyn Michel at (312) 886-5211 or Sally Jo Wieling at (312) 353-8853.

/s/ Charles Bennett  
Branch Chief  
Survey and Certification Review Branch  
Division of Health Standards and Quality.